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Remarkable butoh from SU-EN

DANCE

"Cracks"

SU-EN BUTOH COMPANY

VENUE: SMALL STAGE DANSENS HUS, STOCKHOLM

In one corner of the stage a bunch of wild water melons is placed. The strong red colour of their inside looks like a gushing flood frozen in the middle of a breaking wave. They form a beautiful and mysterious symbol of SU-EN Butoh Company's latest performance "Cracks". The choreographer SU-EN, who has studied with the legend Yoko Ashikawa, has developed a highly individual and personal interpretation of the Japanese butoh. "Cracks" offers condensed moments and images of unity and disruption, which persistently merges in and out of each other.

Along the spines of the female dancers a grey-white stripe is painted; a life-line or perhaps a crack, between life and death, between what keeps us together and what splits us apart. In this excavation of the human inside and outside, all senses are tried out. The sometimes captivating, sometimes attacking sensations and expressions are twisted, turned and distorted.

Lee Berwicks recycled, found sounds and "noise" appears like an invisible membrane and strongly contributes to the emerging cracks in time and space. In this imaginary scenery Joanna Bodzek's colourful costumes and Svante W Monie's light adds further layers to the reality and imaginative worlds of beauty and cruelty. The relation of what we see and what we know can hardly be clearer than this.

The dynamics and shifts charges the meaning of gesture and movement and with same clarity we see how fundamental the body is a subject to categorizing and hierarchies. Like using a sharp stroke of a brush, ideas of human aesthetics, form and expression is pictured as limiting our human habitat. How quickly just a tiny small "divergence" opens up for infinite possibilities of marginalisations.

It takes time to find the depth of SU-EN's aesthetics and technique. This is visible mainly in the last part. SU-EN's own intensity, concentration and richness of details, is something that the other dancers sometimes have yet to reach - it appears like they get stuck in an image or a pose - or are they just the expression for the unavoidable cracks of existence.